

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAR ES 01708 262145Z

63

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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SCA-01 /071 W

----- 068369

O 261730Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8325

INFO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL BUKAVU IMMEDIATE

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS DAR ES SALAAM 1708

USIA FOR IBS, IPS; NAIROBI ALSO FOR VOA

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC (SMUTS, SMITH AND HUNTER)

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPING OF AMERICANS: PRESS STATEMENTS BY
AMBASSADOR AND BARBARA SMUTS

1. AT 1600 GMT MAY 26 THE AMBASSADOR AND MISS BARBARA SMUTS
GAVE TO MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AT A PRESS CONFERENCE HELD IN THE
EMBASSY THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS.

2. QUOTE: STATEMENT OF AMBASSADOR W. BEVERLY CARTER, JR.:
I MET WITH PRESIDENT NYERERE AT 4:00 P.M. TODAY TO DISCUSS
THE GOMBE KIDNAPPING INCIDENT AND THE CONDITIONS OF RELEASE
ASKED BY THE CAPTORS OF THE FOUR STUDENTS. ALONG WITH PRESIDENT
NYERERE ON HIS SIDE WERE FOREIGN MINISTER JOHN MALECELA AND
BERNARD MUGANDA, DIRECTOR*(9374903-AMERICAS DIVISION OF THE
FOREIGN MINISTRY. JOINING ME WAS MY DEPUTY, GORDON AVYEUGM
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 DAR ES 01708 262145Z

THE CONDITIONS REQUESTED BY THE PARTIE DE LA REVOLUTION POPULAIRE (PRP - POPULAR REVOLUTHBM SRY ARMY) ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. 200,000 POUNDS STERLING OR 500,000 AMERICAN DOLLARS;
2. RELEASE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PRP YUNBU GABRIEL AND KILEKOGA UALEH AND HIS STAFF.

3. ARMS: 50 MITRAILLEUSES LEGERES; 10 CANNON, 75MM; 10 MITRAILLEUSES LOURDES; ,)0 FAL-BELGIAN OR AMERICAN;

MUNITIONS: 500,000 MITRAILLEUSES LEGERES; 100,000 CANNON, 75MM; 200,000 FAL-BELGIAN OR AMERICAN.

PRESIDENT NYERERE OUTLINED HIS GOVERNMENT'S REACTION TO THE CONDITCOHS, AND THE TANZANIAN GOVERNMENT WILL BE ISSUING A STATEMENT TO THIS EFFECT SHORTLY. PRESIDENT NYERERE EXPRESSED HIS PERSONAL AND HIS GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN ABOUT THE SAFETY OF THE STUDENTS WHO ARE STILL HELD CAPTIVE AND DECRIED KIDNAPPING AS A TOOL TO GAIN PUBLICITY I AM COMMUNICATING THE REACTION OF THE TANZANIAN GOVERNMENT TO MY GOVERNMENT, AND WE WILL REMAIN IN CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH TANZANIA AND WITH ZAIRE AS TO HOW THE LIVES OF THESE STUDENTS CAN BE PROTECTED.

MISS BARBARA SMUTS JOINED PRESIDENT NYERERE AND THE REST OF THE PARTN -5 4:45 P.M., AND SHE WISHES TO MAKE A STATEMENT IN HER OWN BEHALF. UNQUOTE.

2. QUOTE: STATEMENT OF BARBARA SMUTS:

ON THE NIGHT OF MAY 19TH I AND THREE OTHER STUDENTS, TWO AMERICAN AND ONE DUTCH, WERE TAKEN FROM THE GOMBE STREAM RESEARCH CENTER ON THE SHORES OF LAKE TANGANYI IN TANZANIA BY A GROUP OF ARMED MEN. THAT NIGHT WE WERE TAKEN ACROSS THE LAKE TO ZAIRE WHERE WE WERE HELD AS PRISONERS. OUR CAPTORS IDENTIFIED THEMSELVES AS SOLDIARS FROM THE FORCES OF THE POPULAR ARMY (FORCE ARMEE POPULAIRE) OF THE POPULAR REVOLUTIONARY PARTY (PARTIE REVOLUTIONAIRE POPULAIRE) OF ZAIRE, WHOSE PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER IS KABILA.

OUR CAPTORS REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZED THAT THEY ARE NOT BANDITS OR PIRATES OUT FOR PERSONAL GAIN, BUT THAT THEY REPRE-

SENT AN ORGANIZED MILITARY AND POLITICAL FORCE.THEY TOLD US THAT THIS KIDNAPPING WAS NOT DIRECTED AGAINST THE DDTCH OR AMERICAN PEOPLE, BUT INSTEAD WAS DONE IN ORDER TO FURTHER THEIR CAUSE, WHICH IS IN THEIR WORDS OZTHE LIBERATION OF ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE CONGO FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 DAR ES 01708 262145Z

MOBUTU AND THE ESTABLISHMEZZ OF A JUST AND DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT FOR ALL OUR PEOPLE."

ON SATURDAY NIGHT I WAS ROWED BACK ACROSS THE LAKE AND RELEASED IN TANZANIA IN ORDER TO DELIVER CERTAIN MESSAGES TO PRESIDENT NYERERE OF TANZANIA, AND TO THE DUTCH AND AMERICAN EMBASSIES. THOSE MESSAGES HAVE BEEN DELIVERED. CONTAINED IN THEM ARE OUR CAPTORS' STATED CONDITIONS FOR THE RELEASE OF THE OTHER THREE STUDENTS.

WE WERE NOT MISTREATED IN ANY WAY AND WERE GIVEN ADEQUATE
FOOD AND SHELTER. AT THE TIME I LEFT THEM, THE OTHER THREE
WERE IN GOOD HEALTH AND IN GOOD SPIRITS.

I AM, OF COURSE, INCREDIBLY HAPPY AND RELIEVED TO BE SAFELY
BACK AMONG FAMILY AND FREINDS, BUT MY THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS ARE
WITH EMIL, CARRIE, AND STEVE WHO REMAIN IN THE HANDS OF THEIR
CAPTORS. I HOPE AND PRAY THAT EVERYTHING POSSIBLE WILL BE DONE
TO ENSURE THEIR PROMPT AND SAFE RETURN. UNQUOTE.
CARTER

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